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Rosemary Westwood
FROM THE U.S.
metroNEWS

IT'S NOT THE AUTOBAHN, PEOPLE

Road design — not signs — may be the way to curb Ottawa's serial speeders
metroNEWS

There are some roads, like Hunt Club, seen here, where speeding is not surprising — it's even to be expected. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

Bylaw pitch for Ottawa's own bad neighbours

RIDEAU-VANIER

Officers should deal with noise complaints in a.m.: Councillor

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

It's now in the city manager's hands whether bylaw officers will deal with after-hours noise complaints.

Thanks to an Ottawa police downloading initiative, there's a small window in the wee hours every day when bylaw officers don't respond to noise complaints. Police only go if there's a safety concern.

In the six months since the new model was implemented, 321 noise complaints went unanswered, most of them on weekdays between 2 and 6 a.m. On Fridays and Saturdays, about three per cent of all calls were put off between 4 and 6 a.m.

Coun. Mathieu Fleury wants to change that.

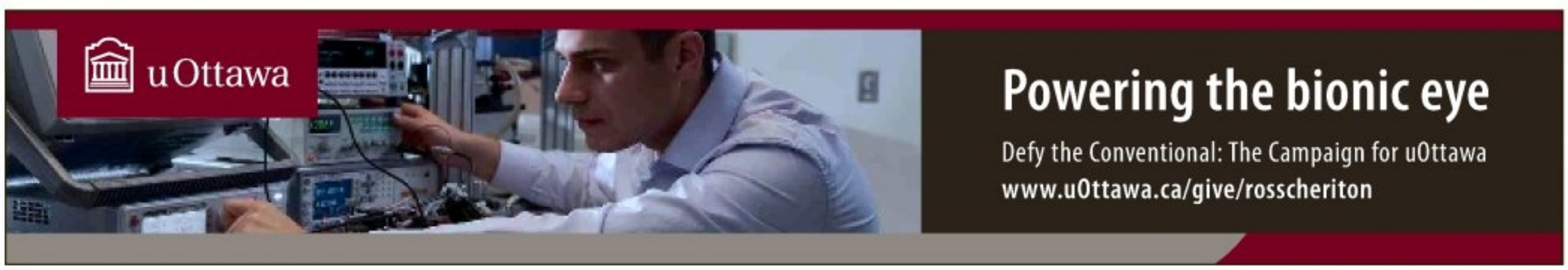
He asked Wednesday that bylaw brass review shift schedules so bylaw officers can be on-call for noise complaints in the wee hours, at least on weekends.

He said calls coming in at 4 a.m. are "100 per cent" the most frustrating complaints for residents. "(At that time) it's affecting the neighbours and the neighbourhoods," said Fleury, who compared the situation to Zac Efron's frat house film, Neighbours. "In my mind, it promotes vigilantes."

The request was referred to city manager Steve Kanellakos, who will respond before the draft budget is tabled Nov. 9.

In a report to council, staff said they needed to monitor the situation longer, and recommended waiting until 2018 to take action.

But Fleury said he's not necessarily asking for more money, just a shift in operations.



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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Tensions flaring in Venezuela as opposition, socialist supporters face off.

5 THINGS TO DO IN THE CITY

Halloween weekend features a bag full of tricks and treats, including 3D printing, teen literature, cats (black or otherwise) and candy (obviously). Here's a rundown of everything you need to know to scare up some fun in the city. **HALEY RITCHIE** METRO

1 3D Canada

Have you always wanted a 3D printed miniature bust of your own head? Saturday is your chance. Join novelist and artist Douglas Coupland at Simons in the Rideau Centre on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to have your head scanned. The project will be moving across the country to culminate eventually in an art installation.

2 Ottawa Cat Show

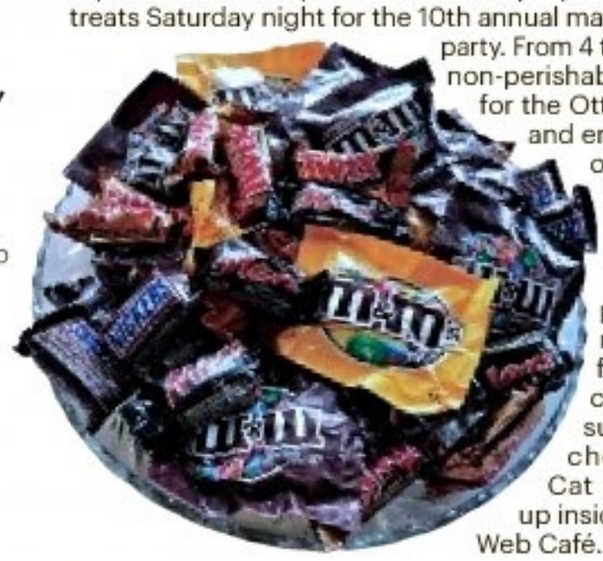
Head to the Nepean Sportsplex on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a "furry fall bonanza." There will be both pedigree and household cats as well as vendors and seminars. Adult entry is $7 and those who bring a donation of cat food for rescues will be entered into a draw.

3 Grand Market

Thirteen Ottawa-region grandmother groups are participating to bring you a gigantic sale of used women's clothing and accessories, children's toys, games, homewares, books, art, pottery, textiles, crafts, food and more — including Tarot readings by Grandmother Moon. All proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Horticultural Building in Lansdowne Park.

4 Trick or treat with the mayor

Try to trick the mayor or at least stop by city hall for some treats Saturday night for the 10th annual mayor's Halloween party. From 4 to 7 p.m., bring a non-perishable "baby basic" for the Ottawa Food Bank and enjoy three hours of family fun on the Trick or Treat terrace outside city hall. Decorate pumpkins, meet your favourite Disney characters and superheroes and check out Alley Cat Avenue. Warm up inside at the Spider Web Café.



5 OPL Teen Author Fest

Aspiring fiction writers take note — seven published authors will be at the Ottawa Public Library this weekend to give keynotes, writing workshops and give autographs. This public event will take place Saturday in the auditorium of the Main branch from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. It's free.

REAL ESTATE

Housing market in better shape than other Canadian cities

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa's housing market is much stronger than other cities across the country, but there remains a glut of new condos on the market.

In a national housing analysis released this week, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation ranked the state of housing markets in all Canadian cities and found reasons for serious concern in Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, Saskatoon and Regina.

In those markets, the corporation found unsupported price escalation and general overheating that could lead to a sharp drop in prices.

Ottawa, however, held up well, with only slight concerns from the corporation about overbuilding.

Anne-Marie Shaker, a senior market analyst, with the corporation, said while the market isn't roaring, it's stable.

"We have slowed down from previous highs no question about that," she said.

The overbuilding concerns relate almost completely to the 535 condominiums currently in the city that have been completed, but not yet sold.

Shaker said no other segment of the housing market has a similar problem.

"It's almost entirely in the condominium market. It's a huge share," she said.

Shaker said that number is high, but compared to the 699 units that were in place in February, the trend is moving in the right direction.

"It's slowly coming down. We do expect it to come down further. Builders are not building as much, allowing the inventory to clear," she said.

Shaker said this issue seems to be confined mostly to the condominium market and she doesn't see it spreading to single-family housing or housing types.

For renters, she said the current situation likely means the vacancy rate will remain at around 3.4 per cent where it has been for most of this year.

She said next year, when they expect housing sales will slow a little, the vacancy rate could tighten as fewer people take the plunge into buying a home.

Traffic manager 'not surprised' by serial speeding in some areas

PUBLIC WORKS

Better road design is how to curb drivers safely: Official

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

There are some roads in Ottawa, like Hunt Club, seen here, where serial speeding is not surprising — it's even to be expected. ADAM KVETON / FOR METRO

There are certain Ottawa roads where the majority of drivers consistently drive well above the speed limit. But the city's traffic services manager says that can have less to do with the people behind the wheel and more to do with the roads themselves.

In fact, you could probably identify those roads yourself just by looking at them.

Many have multiple lanes, medians in between, few houses along them, or houses that are set back from the road. Some even have barriers between housing and the road.

You might consider them to be places where you could go 80 kilometres an hour pretty safely, and yet their speed limits are getting lower.

One example is Hunt Club Road east of Bank Street. Last year, the city passed a motion to have the stretch between Cahill Drive and Conroy Road reduced from 80 kilometres an hour to 60.

This was due to community concern over high speeds. The ward's councillor supported the change at the time, despite the fact that 80 kilometres an hour was "appropriate" for the road based on the city's speed zoning policy, and the city's public works department noting that it "does not expect the operating speed on Hunt Club Road to be significantly reduced … unless there is significant police enforcement on an on-going basis."

That is where the disconnect happens.

"You've got a four lane roadway, you've got setback sidewalks. You've got a barrier wall on both sides. So it's actually not conducive to lower speeds, and actually if you start driving slower … you don't feel that comfortable," said Phil Landry, the city's manager of traffic services.

> Making the speed limit 40 on a road isn't going to change the behaviour unless we have enforcement all the time.
> Phil Landry

Now, the majority of people are still speeding, and Landry said he's not surprised.

"Hunt Club was designed for 80 kilometres an hour because that's what the speed limit was set at, so it's operating at what the design was to be," he said.

In short, drivers still feel comfortable driving 80 kilometres an hour. But, as more houses are built nearer streets like Hunt Club, residents speak out on safety.

Other roads, like Meadowlands Drive, historically have had lower speed limits in some places and higher speed limits in others. East of Fisher, the speed limit on Meadowlands is 40 kilometres an hour because that section of the road was in the former city of Nepean, which chose to reduce the speed limit. Now, according to city stats released to Metro, compliance with the speed limit is one per cent.

Landry is looking into having roads purpose-built, or later changed, to induce the desired speed limit.

"We are working with our planners to build roads so if you want the speed to be at 40 or to be at 50 or to be at 60, you build it so that people actually travel at that speed," he said.

Local dishes improved with Ottawa craft brews

THE BOTTLENECK

Jordan Duff

Those groan-worthy aprons that read, "I love cooking with wine… sometimes I even put it in the food!" inspired this column. Though my influence for exploring beer as an ingredient in cooking comes from a dark place, there are some excellent local dishes that are prepared using local beer.

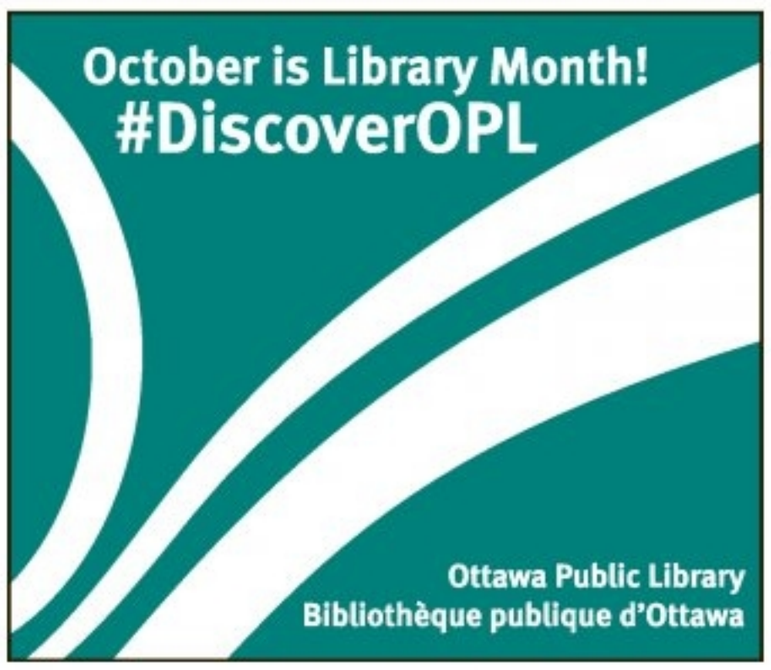
I began this journey by asking David Ort, author of the Canadian Craft Beer Cookbook, what makes beer so effective as an ingredient. "As an ingredient, beer has a range of characteristics — flavour, aroma, colour and carbonation — that nothing else can cover... Other beverages have bubbles, but because no others are reinforced like beer's, they can't lift batters the way beer can."

Clarkstown Kitchen & Bar's mussels need a strong beer to complement their flavour. The Vanier resto offers their Mussels and Frites seafood dish steamed in Class V IPA from Whitewater Brewery. Clarkstown owner Andre Cloutier explains that the beer offers bitter citrus notes that dance elegantly with the dish's sweet sautéed onion and fresh-diced tomatoes.

Carleton Place's Stalwart Brewing Co. had some early issues with some cans that were not properly seamed. Rather than waste the beer, they sent the "leakers" to local chefs and foodies to use the beer as an ingredient. This decision has worked out brilliantly with Around the Block butcher shop and butcher David Wallace.

A particularly bold creation blends Stalwart Brewery's Big Papa peach and apricot pale ale into sausages. Wallace says that Big Papa is particularly fun to work with because it is such a bold flavour that the sausages carry the taste through. Time to up your barbecue game.

These local mussels need a strong beer to complement their flavour. COURTESY CLARKSTOWN KITCHEN AND BAR



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Pumpkin-spiced cheese

FOOD

Yes, that's a thing now, and it's on offer in Ottawa

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Pumpkin-spice lattes, sure. But pumpkin-spice cheese?

That's precisely what world-renowned cheese master Afrim Pristine has been developing for his trip to Ottawa next week.

"The Senator," as Toronto-based Pristine has affectionately named it, is a washed-rind cheese from Niagara bathed daily in pumpkin juice and spices.

He'll officially cut the cheese at the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival, where he's building a 5,500-square foot cheese vault to showcase 24 cheeses so rare "you won't find them anywhere else on the planet."

If he sounds prone to exaggeration, cast your doubts aside. Pristine was inducted as the world's youngest cheese master by the Guilde Internationale des Fromagers in 2013, at the ripe old age of 32.

Toronto-based fromage expert Afrim Pristine will debut his new pumpkin-spice flavour in Ottawa next week. CONTRIBUTED

> **I have 500 cheeses from all over the world and they're all different. That's why cheese making is magical.** Afrim Pristine

He's trained with the world's best cheese makers and brought his knowledge home to the Cheese Boutique, his family-run store of 46 years.

His pedigree was inherited from his father, grandfather and brother.

"I just took it a step further," Pristine said.

To him, cheese is "an incredible art form" — especially since all cheeses are basically just milk and salt.

"And yet I have 500 cheeses from all over the world and they're all different," Pristine said. "That's why cheese making is magical."

At the festival, Pristine said he looks forward to welcoming "novice palates" to help them find their perfect cheese.

Whether you grew up sneaking Kraft Singles from the fridge or dining on Camembert and crackers with your parents, Pristine said cheese is "in our DNA."

"I think we just over-think it," he said. "My job is to use my training and to find what you want."

The festival runs Nov. 4 to 6 at the EY Centre.

The 31-year-old festival had to find a new home this year after a judge disagreed the Shaw Centre had to reserve the festival's preferred dates until 2020.

TRANSIT

Talking about the 12

Got an issue with the 12?

This is your last chance to tell OC Transpo how you really feel as the transit agency wraps up an online survey to improve the service.

The route, which runs from Blair Station to the Rideau Centre (and, until recent construction detours, to Bank Street during peak hours), has a history of capacity issues. Users report crammed buses that are susceptible to "bunching" and running off schedule.

Coun. Tobi Nussbaum said residents have told him several packed buses often go by before they can board.

The survey, which closes Sunday, is part of larger consultations ahead of Montreal Road's overhaul in 2018. Nussbaum said better transit priority infrastructure like bus lanes will be important for the redesign.

The short survey on octranspo.com collects basic trip information and user comments.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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IMAGES
LEFT: **Josef Sudek**, *Four Seasons: Winter*, from the series *The Window of My Studio* (detail), c. 1940–54. NGC, Ottawa. Gift of an anonymous donor, 2010. © Estate of Josef Sudek.
TOP RIGHT: **Dennis Robinson**, *Demonstration in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto* (detail), c. 1970. Archives of *The Globe and Mail* Newspaper.
BOTTOM RIGHT: **Eugène Atget**, *Boulevard de Strasbourg* (detail), 1912, printed c. 1935. NGC, Ottawa. Gift of Dorothy Meigs Eidlitz, 1968.
Photos: NGC

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'Veg singles' look to spark romance

RELATIONSHIPS

Event follows up after success in San Francisco

Brieanna Charlebois
For Metro | Ottawa

Interested in speed dating, but can't stomach the idea of going out with someone who eats meat? Try veg speed dating.

Last Saturday, 20 single vegans and vegetarians gathered at The Tea House Party Café on York Street in the hopes to spark a new romance among other "veg singles."

Karine Brighten, the creator of Veg Speed Dating, hosted similar events in San Francisco over the past five years. She recently decided to bring her concept to Ottawa.

"I started the event in 2011 because several of my friends said that they couldn't find any vegetarian or vegan men. The events were really successful, so when I moved back to Ottawa, I thought I'd try it out here," Brighten says. "I was a little nervous because Ottawa is much smaller than San Francisco and I didn't know if there was a market for that here."

In 2015, 33 per cent of Canadians — or almost 12 million people — reported being vegetarians or as eating less meat. While British Columbia is considered the most vegetarian-friendly province, Quebec and Ontario are not far behind. Eight percent of Ontarians identify as vegetarian.

Vegans and vegetarians gathered at The Tea House Party Café on York Street in the hopes to spark a new romance among like-minded singles. CONTRIBUTED

8%
...of Ontarians identify as vegetarian.

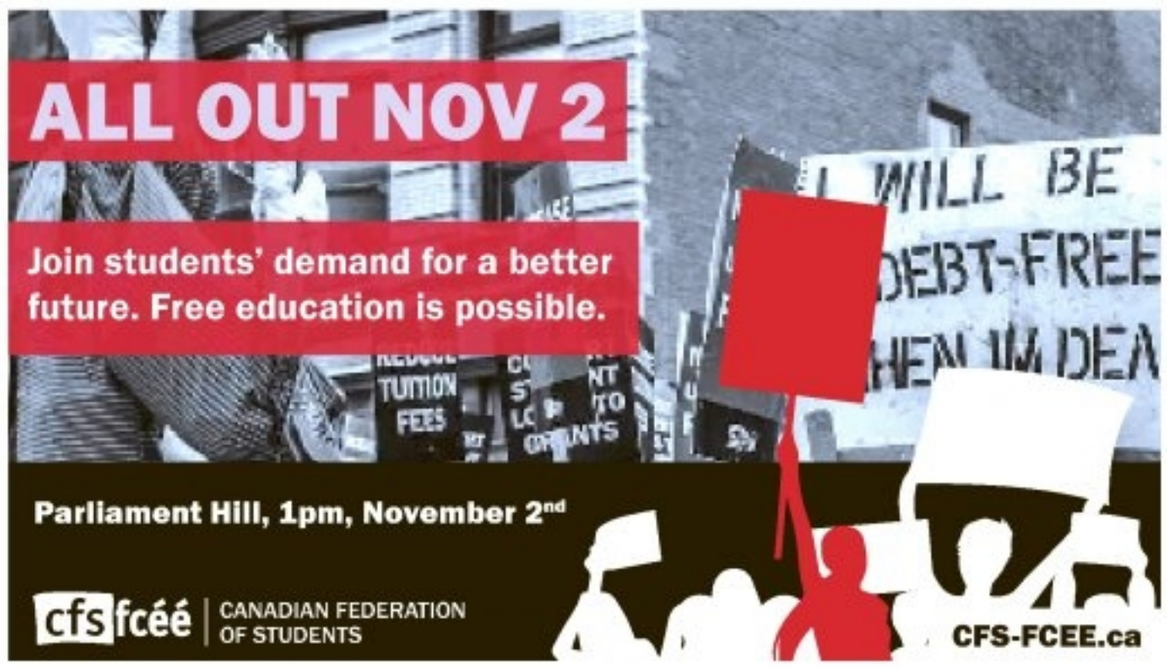
"Being a vegan myself, it has become increasingly more important to meet a like-minded girl. Ideally, she'd also be vegan," says one 45-year-old speed dater who attended the event, who didn't want to give his name. "This seemed like the perfect situation for me and after going on Saturday, I definitely think there's potential for me to meet someone this way."

Brighten's events were very successful in San Francisco and resulted in several matches and long-term relationships — two couples that met through the event have since married. She says that the success stories are why she continues to hold speed-dating sessions and hopes to bring that success to Ottawa's dating scene.

"I know that speed dating is not a new concept but one specifically for vegetarians and vegans was definitely very unique," Brighton adds. "Even if they don't meet someone they're interested in romantically, I've seen many great friendships form through the event and that's really nice to see."

The next Veg Speed Dating event will take place on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $30 and the event is open to anyone over 21.

> **After going on Saturday, I definitely think there's potential for me to meet someone this way.**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Jessie Richards and Mick Wilson and their teal pumpkin, which is a beacon for kids with allergies at Halloween. CONTRIBUTED

INVESTIGATION

Police go high-tech in search for witnesses

Some cellphone users got a couple of texts yesterday as provincial police in Ontario unveiled an innovative technique to identify potential witnesses in an ongoing homicide investigation.

The body of 65-year-old Frederick Hatch was discovered near Erin, Ont., on Dec. 17, 2015, and investigators have been searching for suspects ever since.

The investigation has determined that Hatch was last seen alive on Dec. 16, 2015, in Ottawa — in the area of West Hunt Club Road and Merivale Road — about 450 kilometres northeast of where his body was found.

Police say they've identified cellphone numbers that were in use in the area at the time Hatch was last seen and will send two text messages — one in English and one in French — to those phones today.

The message asked recipients to visit a website and voluntarily answer a few simple questions to possibly help the OPP solve Hatch's killing.

Police did not receive the names or any other contact information for the registered cellphone owners, but they're hoping those who receive the message will respond.

"We believe this new investigative technique — a text message canvass to cellphone owners — will reach witnesses," Det. Supt. Dave Truax said this week in a release.

Det. Insp. Andy Raffay said the technique builds on the accepted practice of the door-to-door witness canvass.

"Texting is an evolution of this investigative technique that is unique, maybe unprecedented," Truax said.

"It's the most efficient way to contact these people quickly to either eliminate them as witnesses or learn whether they have any useful information," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kids with allergies get special treat

SAFETY

Teal Pumpkin Project hands out non-food surprises

Brieanna Charlebois
For Metro | Ottawa

Families in Ottawa are joining the push to put out teal pumpkins this Halloween.

The Teal Pumpkin Project — now in its third year — is an international awareness campaign that encourages people to offer non-food treats so all kids can enjoy Halloween.

The teal pumpkins signal that a home is also giving out non-food treats to kids with serious food allergies. It's a way to make Halloween a little less scary for those kids, who might not otherwise be able to go trick-or-treating.

The U.S. non-profit Food Allergy Research and Education, or FARE, launched the campaign in 2014.

It was such a success that Food Allergy Canada followed suit last year — and this Halloween, they're hoping for an even bigger turnout.

"As a kid, I loved Halloween but I couldn't eat a lot of the candy, or I'd eat it and get really sick," says 32-year-old Jessie Richards of Ottawa.

"It's nice to give something different to kids so they can participate without feeling as crappy as I did."

Interactive maps featured on FARE's website allow parents to see who is partaking in the project.

"Looking on the map you can see that there aren't many houses with teal pumpkins in Ottawa," Richards says.

"I'm really hoping more people in my neighborhood will start to support the project."

"Most people I talk to haven't even heard of it," says Sheri Styles, a local mother who runs the Teal Pumpkin Project-Ontario Facebook page. "If I can get even 10 people to participate and give out an alternative to candy, then I'm happy."

TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Young victims were from Toronto, say Ottawa police

Ottawa police have arrested and charged two Toronto residents in connection with an alleged sex trade trafficking enterprise that funnelled female victims from Toronto to Ottawa. Police say the 15-, 16- and 17-year-old victims were all from Toronto.

One woman and one man were arrested at the scene.

Michael Poku, 27, and Madison Boucher, 19, have been charged with three counts of trafficking in persons under 18, three counts of procuring persons under 18 to provide sexual services, and several other charges. ADAM KVETON / FOR METRO

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Concerns over groundwater

BOTTLING PERMITS

Environmental chief seeking better controls

Ontario's environmental commissioner is urging the Liberal government to get better information about the province's groundwater as it reviews the permits for bottled water companies.

Premier Kathleen Wynne recently imposed a two-year moratorium on any new or expanded bottled water operations in the province while the government reviews the rules and comes up with a new pricing scheme.

Wynne wants bottled water companies treated differently than the many other sectors with water-taking permits, including mining and construction.

But environmental commissioner Dianne Saxe said the government doesn't have enough data to know what's happening with ground water in Ontario.

"We're making decisions with our eyes closed," she said. "We don't have enough information yet we're allowing millions of litres to be taken every day out of the ground."

The environmental watchdog warned that climate change will increase the amount of stress placed on water with more frequent and longer droughts, but said the province still allows millions of litres to be taken every day out of the ground.

Environment Minister Glen Murray said the current review will focus only on bottled water companies that draw from wells, but he plans to expand it next year to include others with water taking permits, including golf courses.

The issue of getting good data on the groundwater, and other environmental concerns, is "challenging" for all governments right now, added Murray.

Saxe called the two-year moratorium on new bottled water operations using wells "an excellent idea," but said her predecessor had been raising problems with the province's water-taking permit program for years.

> **We're making decisions with our eyes closed.**
> Dianne Saxe

Ontario charges companies just $3.71 for every one million litres, on top of a permit fee of $750 for low- or medium-risk water takings, or $3,000 for those considered a high risk to cause an adverse environmental impact. About 30 per cent are in the highest risk category.

Municipalities, mines, construction companies and golf courses — in addition to the water-bottling companies — are allowed to take a total of 1.4 trillion litres out of Ontario's surface and ground water supplies every day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Environmental Commissioner Dianne Saxe.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AIDS

City Hall memorial proposal

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

A new memorial could be in place outside city hall next year to mark both those who have died from AIDS and the dark history of the disease.

After celebrating their 30th anniversary last year, the AIDS committee of Ottawa is hoping to install a new memorial for those who have died.

"We have recognized that Ottawa is one of the bigger cities in Canada that doesn't have an official AIDS memorial," said Khaled Salam, the group's executive director.

On Wednesday, city Coun. David Chernushenko introduced a notice of motion to seek city support to have the memorial placed in Marion Dewar Plaza in front of City Hall.

Salam said other illnesses have never had the same stigma as AIDS, which makes the memorial as much about remembering the history as honouring the dead.

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CRIME 'TRAGIC BEYOND BELIEF' Terry Miller, centre, holds pictures of her children Catie Miller and Christopher Miller as her husband Dr. John Miller, left, speaks to the media outside the Halifax courtroom where his daughter's murderers were sentenced to life in prison.

Catie Miller, 29, was confined in the trunk of a car for hours before her brutal murder and dismemberment in a crime described by Justice Patrick Duncan as "cold and heinous."

"This is tragic beyond belief," Miller said. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Sponsored refugees fare better: Review

IMMIGRATION

65 per cent of government-assisted refugees use food banks

Refugees sponsored by community groups do better than government-assisted ones with fewer relying on food banks and social assistance, an evaluation of Canada's much heralded resettlement program shows.

Some 65 per cent of government-assisted refugees reported using food banks, compared to only 29 per cent of their privately sponsored counterparts, according to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada report released this week.

Five years after their arrival, 41 per cent of government-assisted refugees relied on social assistance, compared to just 28 per cent among those sponsored by private groups. While six out of 10 of the former were employed within five years, the rate went up to 7 out of 10 for their privately sponsored peers.

The relative success of privately sponsored refugees is bolstered, in part, by the stability and guidance offered by relatives or sponsorship groups, advocates say.

Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees, said she was not surprised with the findings.

"Privately-sponsored refugees usually have family members in Canada for support and they are not selected for their vulnerability like the GARs (government-assisted refugees) are," she explained.

The internal review examined all aspects of the refugee resettlement programs — government-assisted, private sponsorship, the blended-visa program, which is a blend of the two, and the resettlement assistance program — between 2010 and 2015, before Ottawa opened its doors to 31,000 Syrian refugees in December.

During the period, a total of 49,516 refugees were resettled in Canada, 53 per cent of them under the government-assisted program, 46 per cent sponsored by private community groups and just 1 per cent under the blended-visa program.

Thirty-nine per cent of government-assisted refugees were children, compared to just 30 per cent among their privately-sponsored and blended counterparts.

While two out of five privately-sponsored refugees know either English or French, the rate dropped to 26 per cent among the government-supported refugees. Those referred by visa posts under the blended program had the highest needs, with only 14 per cent speaking one of the two official languages.

Through interviews and analysis of data, the review found the level of the refugee assistance program's income support is inadequate, with more than half of government-sponsored refugees saying the money did not cover their essential needs.

The majority of their income support goes to housing, leaving little for other basic necessities. While it took government-assisted refugees an average of 3.7 weeks to secure permanent housing, it took more than twice the time for private sponsorship groups to do so.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

New bi-partisan senators chosen

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has named nine new, non-partisan senators, bringing him within reach of his goal to transform the discredited Senate into a more reputable, independent chamber of sober second thought.

The five women and four men hail from a wide variety of backgrounds, from an art historian to a renowned human rights lawyer to a conservationist. All will sit as independents in the Senate.

They are the first senators to be chosen under an arm's-length process that saw more than 2,700 people apply to fill the 21 vacancies in the 105-seat upper house.

Trudeau is poised to announce two more batches of appointments within days, filling the remaining 12 empty seats - six from Quebec, six from Ontario - and, for the first time, putting senators with no partisan affiliation in the driver's seat.

When he's done, independent senators will hold a plurality of 44 seats, outnumbering the Conservatives' 40 and the independent Liberals' 21.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'The deadliest of its kind'

SYRIA

Idlib school attack a potential war crime: UN

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on Thursday for an immediate investigation of an attack on a school in Syria's Idlib province that the UN's children's agency is calling one of the deadliest of its kind in the country's six-year war.

UNICEF raised its toll for Wednesday's attack to 28 dead, among them 22 children and six teachers.

Ban said in a statement that the attack, carried out against rebel-held territory, may amount to a war crime if found to be deliberate.

"If such horrific acts persist despite global outrage, it is largely because their authors, whether in corridors of power or in insurgent redoubts, do not fear justice. They must be proved wrong," he said.

Witnesses said overhead jets targeted the school in the town of Hass as many as 10 times, around midday Wednesday. Opposition activists blamed the strikes on Russian and government planes.

Idlib is the main Syrian opposition stronghold, though radical militant groups also have a large presence there. It has regularly been hit by Syrian and Russian warplanes as well as the U.S.-led coalition targeting Daesh militants.

The Russian military denied responsibility, calling the accusations a "sham."

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said a Russian drone flew over the school building Thursday and found its roof intact and no bomb craters around it.

Russian warplanes didn't fly over the area the previous day, Konashenkov said.

The Syrian Civil Defence first responders team said on Thursday that the airstrikes killed at least 35 people, mostly children.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 15 students were killed, as well as four teachers and three other women. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the separate figures, but divergent death tolls are not uncommon in a conflict-torn Syria that has been largely inaccessible to international media for over two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This frame grab from video provided by the Syrian Revolution Network, an opposition activist media organization, consistent with independent AP reporting, shows children pulled by an adult after airstrikes killed over 20 people northern rebel-held village of Hass, Syria, on Wednesday. MUAZ AL-SHAMI/SYRIAN REVOLUTION NETWORK VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ SCHOOLS

30 attacks in 2016: UNICEF

Prior to Wednesday's attack, the deadliest assault on a school was reported in April 2014 when 30 children were killed in airstrikes that hit a school in Aleppo, according to UNICEF. UNICEF said it has verified at least 38 attacks on schools this year across Syria, compared to 60 attacks last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSUL

Bomb factory found

Iraqi forces explored a network of tunnels and uncovered a bomb-making facility on Thursday in a village near Mosul that was recently retaken from Daesh, offering a glimpse of the challenge they will face as they move closer to the city.

During cleanup operations in the area of Tob Zawa, special forces Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil's men found a tire shop that had been converted into a factory for making roadside bombs and attaching armour to vehicles.

They also found a tunnel equipped with fans and lights that ran from beneath a mosque out to a road. Iraqi forces have found extensive tunneling networks in areas retaken from Daesh, which the militants used to elude U.S.-led coalition warplanes.

Many fear Daesh may resort to more brutal tactics as the forces converge on the city, which is still home to more than a million people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teen fearful after noose incident

A black 15-year-old in Mississippi shook in fear as he described how white schoolmates put a noose around his neck and pulled it tight, his mother said Thursday.

Stacey Payton, a 47-year-old college instructor, said her son met her in her office and told her about the Oct. 13 incident a few hours after it happened in a high school locker room.

She expected him to say he received a bad grade or got in trouble for talking in class.

"And he said, 'Mom, they put a noose around my neck and they pulled it tight and it choked me.' And I just instantly — it was like a chill went over my body," Payton told The Associated Press.

The Stone County Sheriff's Department is investigating. Mississippi NAACP President Derrick Johnson is calling for federal authorities to investigate a possible hate crime. The FBI said it is aware of the incident but wouldn't confirm or deny an investigation.

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Welcome to America the Cliché

Rosemary Westwood relocates from Canada to the United States in the midst of the most unusual presidential election ever. She chronicles her observations in a weekly column for Metro.

It couldn't have been a more clichéd start to a new life in the U.S.A.

At the Detroit border between the U.S. and Canada, waiting in a small grey room for my immigration paperwork to be processed while border officers rummaged through the U-Haul truck, there were the usual markers that you're in America now, baby: A large, framed photo of the president, a series of beefy, mostly white male guards in buzzcuts, an array of bald-eagle images, and a mostly non-white group of travellers chosen for extra scrutiny.

But also this: An alleged instance of racial profiling. A tense encounter between a black man, who was saying he'd been stopped for more questioning at the border 10 times in a row, and officers, who said the man was "resisting."

"That's what's wrong," one guard said, shaking his head. "It's happening all over the country. It's not disrespectful to obey the commands of an officer."

I heard voices and scuffles, and when the black man came out into the waiting area, his white hightops were undone. "They broke my watch," he told his girlfriend, slumping into a chair beside her.

Another white guard tried to smooth things over: "I just want to make sure you understand what this is about."

"Oh, I know what this is about," the black man said.

But I never saw how it ended. A guard processed my visa paperwork, and I was officially living in America, making my debut in the lattice-work criss-cross of southeastern Michigan's four-lane freeways.

Then came the second cliché. In the middle of the night, in a Dearborn, Mich. hotel, I heard gunshots. Pop-pop. Pop-pop-pop-pop. I shook my fiancé awake, terrified. There was

Robert Burck, known as the 'Naked Cowboy,' antagonizes protestors as they rally against Donald Trump during a 'Nasty Women Protest' outside of Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

screaming, too many voices to count, and as they grew louder and closer I pushed both of us off the bed, dragging the blankets, to hide behind a wall. We waited. The sounds dimmed. There were no sirens.

The next morning, joking that I had "saved us," and skeptical that I'd heard what I thought I'd heard, I asked the front desk guy. He frowned. "Yeah," he said. "Sorry."

"We haven't had a shooting for four years," he assured us. The night security guard had left the left the premises earlier in the evening, he said, because — what else — his sister had been shot. The shooting we'd heard occurred later, outside the hotel lobby. "They called the cops, but they never came." About that last fact, he was apologetic but unsurprised.

And that began our three-day road trip through seven U.S. states, two of them battlegrounds between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump — Michigan, where polls show Clinton in the lead, and Ohio, closer to tied — and five of them redder than Trump in a rage: Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

At the Nashville BBQ joint where we ate our weight in smoked meat, the admonishments posted on the wall included "No swearing" and "God bless the South."

Driving through Alabama, one radio announcer boasted: "Tune in every morning for the latest news in the culture wars."

When we got to New Orleans, one neighbour had been keeping a lookout for the truck, and hurried over to help us unload. "All right, now?" he asked and smiled. "You made it."

+ FIRST LADIES

"Yes, Hillary Clinton is my friend": Michelle Obama

As first ladies they could hardly have been more different. But as Democrats looking to fire up women, Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton were firmly bonded on Thursday.

In their first joint appearance on the campaign trail, Mrs. Obama and Secretary Clinton talked up their shared respect, common values and goals: Defeating Republican Donald Trump.

Since she's emerged as Clinton's headline-grabbing surrogate, people wonder one thing, Obama noted. "Yes, Hillary Clinton is my friend," she answered.

Obama said she "would not be here" if she didn't believe Clinton would be a president she could trust.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Thanks to a prosthetic arm and brain-implanted sensors (really), a man who has been paralyzed for a decade regained feeling in his 'fingers'

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

SEEING SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW

Aside from dusty old surgical samples, until this year no scientist had ever seen the early human development that takes place between approximately seven and 14 days after fertilization. The embryo is burrowed into the mother's body, hidden from view. **Now technology is letting us peer into the process, in real time, for the first time.**

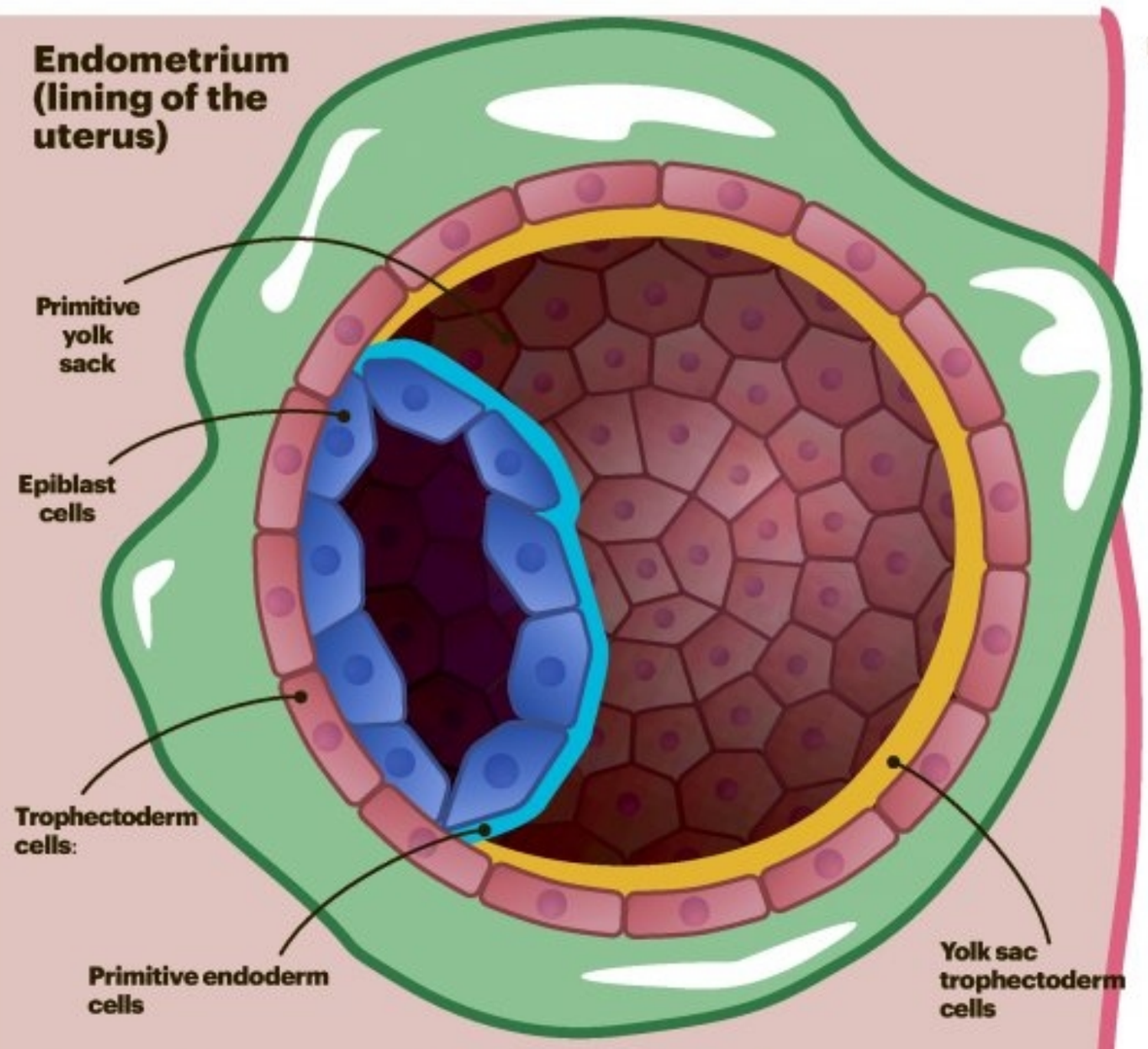
WHAT WE LEARNED

Using stem cells donated by fertility clinics, two groups of scientists, one in the U.K. and one in the U.S., have grown human embryos for up to 12-13 days in the lab. (Usually, the embryo latches on to the mother around day seven). **Here's what surprised them most**, according to scientist Gist Croft, a member of the U.S. team.

1. Failure is **really** built into the process: about 80 per cent of embryos are not viable.

2. Early embryos are amazingly **self-organizing**. It was previously thought they required input (like hormone signals) from the mother to grow and arrange into a complex shape. But they do this all on their own.

3. Researchers discovered what they think is a **brand new cell type**, which they dubbed **yolk sac trophectoderm cells**. Even more crazy: Though scientists don't yet know exactly what they do, these cells seem to express genes from all three of the other main embryo cell types, meaning they could have an important role in future stem-cell science.



Epiblast cells: Become the body
Primitive endoderm cells: Become the amniotic membranes
Trophectoderm cells: Become the placenta

Primitive yolk sac: A structure that nourishes the developing fetus
Yolk sac trophectoderm cells: A newly discovered cell type that lines the yolk sac

Blastocyst: What the less than one-millimetre embryo is called at this phase. After nine weeks, doctors start calling it a **fetus**

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

How far can we forecast weather?

I've heard it's going to be a really cold winter. How do we know that? - Luke, Halifax

I put your question to Greg West, a climate researcher at UBC.

Using satellite data, information about climate oscillations like El Nino and La Nina and arctic sea-ice extent, Environment Canada and the U.S. climate prediction centre can forecast whether the next three months will be above, below, or at normal temperatures with 50 to 70 per cent accuracy, West said. For precipitation, it's zero to 40 per cent. It's a La Nina year here, so we can (probably) expect a cold, snowy winter counteracted in part by the long-term warming trend, West said.

"For day-to-day temperature forecasts, we're more skillful than a random guess out to about ten days," he said. "For precipitation, it's more like seven."

So, anyone who says they can make a specific forecast farther out than that either has information top meteorologists don't, or is full of it.

Predicting the future of chaotic systems is inherently a really hard thing to do, and climate change is making it even more complicated. Long-range forecasts are described relative to historical averages. But when the past 30 years have been nothing but superstorms, polar vortexes and sinking sea ice, averages don't tell you much.

Can we talk about those "farmer's almanac" type of publications for a minute? Some of them claim to have a "scientific" "secret formula" that can predict the year's weather with 80 per cent accuracy.

Generally, scientists don't keep secrets. They publish their data and methods in detail. Whenever some company or person claims to have a tool that is both scientific and proprietary, it's good to stop and ask yourself whether their secrecy is protecting a legitimate commercial interest, or if it's just a cover for BS and bias.

Science Question?
Tweet @genna_buck

NASA

MOONS OVER URANUS
Researchers re-analyzing 1986 data found odd, periodic disturbances in Uranus's rings that suggest the icy planet has two very small moons orbiting near its surface.

ZERO CREDIBILITY
Canadian Gaétan Dugas, the "Patient Zero" blamed for spreading HIV in North America, was no more responsible than hundreds of others who came down with AIDS in the early 1980s, a new study shows. But the myth persisted, in part, possibly, because in an early study, people misread the letter O (for "out-of-state"), as a zero.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Gastrulation is a developmental process in complex animals (like us!) that happens when the embryo (at this point a hollow blob of cells) folds in on itself and reorganizes into three layers. These **germ layers** each give rise to a specific group of organs.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Biologist Lewis Wolpert once quipped, "It is not birth, marriage, or death, but **gastrulation**, which is truly the most important time in your life."

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by Jason Logan

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

The fraught relationship of faith and film

Inferno, starring Tom Hanks, sidesteps the religious controversy with a tale of a deadly virus that threatens all of humanity, but the other Dan Brown films have made film and religion an uncomfortable pairing. CONTRIBUTED

INFERNO

Da Vinci Code franchise just latest member of controversy club

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

This weekend professor of religious iconology and symbology Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) returns to theatres in Inferno, the third movie in the Da Vinci Code franchise.

In 2006, the fictional Harvard prof made his big screen debut, uncovering the complicated personal life of Jesus Christ in The Da Vinci Code. Three years later he used his knowledge of symbology to unravel the mystery of a secret brotherhood called the Illuminati and thwart a terrorist act against the Vatican.

In between those two movies I received dozens of outraged emails, long tracts regarding Dan Brown's books, the upcoming movie, The Illuminati and the veracity of the stories.

In response to the folks who contacted me, concerned the film, which had not been released yet, would be a dangerous piece of anti-Catholic propaganda, I wrote a forward to my Angels and Demons review, pointing letter writers toward the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano. They described Angels and Demons as "harmless entertainment which hardly affects the genius and mystery of Christianity."

Their review noted it is filled with historical inaccuracies but went on to suggest that one could make a game of pointing out all of the film's historical mistakes.

In other words, don't take it seriously and you'll have a good time. Despite the Vatican newspaper's warm embrace, the film still ignited a firestorm of criticism from people upset about the story's alleged anti-Catholic sentiments.

Inferno sidesteps religious controversy with a tale of a deadly virus that threatens all of humanity, but cinema and religion have often made for uncomfortable pairings.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Inferno	★★
Moonlight	★★★★
The Handmaiden	★★★★
American Pastoral	★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

In 1999 the Catholic League denounced Dogma's tale of two fallen angels (Ben Affleck and Matt Damon) trying to get back into heaven as "blasphemy." More recently, uproar erupted over Darren Aronofsky's unorthodox take on the story of Noah. Jerry Johnson, president of the National Religious Broadcasters, loudly objected to the film's "insertion of the extremist environmental agenda."

Perhaps the most controversial religious film ever was The Devils, based on Aldous Huxley's nonfiction book The Devils of Loudun. Years before Ken Russell made the movie, a filmmaker approached Huxley wanting to turn the story of a radical 17th century French Catholic priest accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake, into a film. Huxley said, 'Don't do it.'

He thought there was no way the story could be presented in an entertaining way without short-circuiting people's minds. Turns out maybe he was right.

Forty-five years after its release Russell's film is little seen but much talked about. Banned, censored and still unavailable in its complete form on Blu-Ray, the movie's graphic church orgy offended many — and was cut and removed by censors — but it's more than shock and titillation.

It's a film that makes a serious statement about the struggle between church and state but does so in an entertaining and provocative way.

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ADAPTATION

Hanks finds parallels in Inferno's burning issues

Embedded within the manic action of Inferno, the latest big-screen adaptation of a Dan Brown thriller, is a warning about the dangers of seeking simple solutions to complex problems. Star Tom Hanks says it's a theme with echoes in the current U.S. presidential race.

Inferno sets Hank's polymathic professor Robert Langdon on the trail of a deadly plague concocted by billionaire scientist Bertrand Zobrist (Ben Foster) out of a sort of warped humanitarianism: He plans to end war, poverty and famine by wiping out half the world's population.

Hanks says the belief that there's a "one-step answer to all problems" is alarmingly relevant.

"Down through history there's been an awful lot of people who say: Here's what the problem is, here's what it was caused by, and all you have to do is my suggestion, there's an easy way in order to make it go away," Hanks said.

"It's very simplistic, it's very reactionary. It's almost like a fundamental embracing of a brand of ignorance," he added. "But I think it's part of the political discourse."

Tom Hanks and Felicity Jones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanks clearly has the contest between Trump and Clinton in mind. America, he says, needs "vision and leadership and scope, as opposed to one-stop shopping fixes all."

"I'm not a political activist, nor am I a political animal, but I will say: Look, I'm going to vote for her, because I think this is a marathon in order to solve not just the most obvious problems, but the ones that are coming down the pipe."

Political discussion over, Hanks happily reverts to talking about Dan Brown's mega-successful mix of medieval conspiracies and modern-day skullduggery.

In his third screen outing as Langdon, Hanks is sent on a high-stakes treasure hunt centred around the life and works of Dante Alighieri, whose Divine Comedy created a teeming vision of hell that has influenced artists and writers for 700 years.

He's joined by Felicity Jones' brainy medic Dr. Sienna Brooks as ally and intellectual sparring partner.

Hanks, who played Langdon in The Da Vinci Code and Angels & Demons — both directed by Ron Howard, as is Inferno — says he still finds pleasure in making the border-hopping thrillers. Inferno scurries from Florence to Venice to Istanbul, wreaking havoc in some of the world's most beautiful historic buildings.

For the viewer, the movie offers the pleasures of a good old-fashioned caper — Hanks likens it to a scavenger hunt — in which the characters must decipher a string of clues in a race against time.

Inferno opens in theatres on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Top film frights to stream this Halloween

Hush is a horror flick that will keep you on the edge of your seat. A deaf writer must fight for her life after a masked killer shows up at her window. CONTRIBUTED

This 1973 British horror film, Legend of Hell House, follows a group of researchers who spend a week in a haunted mansion. CONTRIBUTED

HORROR

Metro picks 10 of the scariest films available from Netflix

Chris Alexander
For Metro Canada

'Tis the season to be scared! As Halloween approaches fright film fans both casual and hardcore go searching for horror and there's no better place than Netflix to find your screen screams.

This fall, the streaming service has amassed a pretty impressive wave of classic and contemporary genre films guaranteed to raise hackles and promote sleeplessness. Metro picks 10 of the most terrifying on the Netflix roster.

How many of these fine flicks have you seen?

1. Jaws (1975) A perfect film about a perfectly rude great white shark and the brave souls who try to stop its reign of toothy terror.

Steven Spielberg's breakthrough horror adventure just keeps getting better with age.

2. Re-Animator (1985) H.P. Lovecraft's tale of mad science and speaking severed heads becomes director Stuart Gordon's gory, erotic black comedy masterpiece. This is filled with plenty of zombie action and oodles of bad taste.

3. Sweeny Todd (2007) Tim Burton's blood-soaked adaptation of Steven Sondheim's cannibal barber musical just might be the director's best film.

It's certainly his goriest and the cast — including Johnny Depp and the late Alan Rickman — is truly mesmerizing.

4. The Babadook (2014) Parents at the end of their ropes will get an extra shiver from this tale of a stressed out single mom under siege from a black hearted boogeyman. Chilling stuff.

5. We Are What We Are (2013) The American remake of the acclaimed Mexican indie shocker is even better; a dark, bloody tale of a murderous cannibal clan who are falling apart.

Artfully made and truly terrifying.

6. The Fury (1978) Brian De Palma's outrageous horror thriller pits psychics against each other with explosive results.

Worth it for the crazed final shot alone and a great macho performance by Kirk Douglas.

7. Hush (2015) One of the greatest home invasion horror films ever made helmed by one of the greatest modern horror directors, Mike Flanagan, whose Ouija: Origin of Evil is currently haunting theaters.

This is a simple, smart and stylish shocker.

8. Hellbound: Hellraiser II (1988) This atmospheric and wildly gory sequel to Clive Barker's 1987 sex and death classic is arguably even better than the first instalment, with incredible make-up FX, surreal sequences and a majestic Christopher Young score.

9. The Legend of Hell House (1973) Moody and intelligent adaption of Richard Matheson's chilling novel Hell House is rightfully regarded as one of the best haunted house films of all time.

If you're looking for maximum fright, watch it all alone at home with all of the lights off.

10. The Fly (1958) The original sci-fi/horror classic is in essence a tragedy, with a scientist fighting a losing battle with his humanity after a botched experiment leaves him with the head of an insect.

An early Vincent Price horror role and a fine — often bloody — chiller that still works today.

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Moonlight marks new phase for Harris

ON SCREEN

British actress talks career, women in film, new indie flick

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

She may have starred in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise and played Moneypenny in the past two James Bond blockbusters, but it's a small indie flick that's getting Naomie Harris truly excited.

"This movie is so beautiful and I love the way it's touching people," said the English actress about her latest feature Moonlight. "People are saying that they're looking at life in new ways; it's very rare that you get a movie that touches people as deeply as this."

Since premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival, the Barry Jenkins-directed drama following a youth trying to navigate adolescence in the slums of Miami has been winning critics and building Oscar buzz for Harris's portrayal of the protagonist's strung-out single mom.

Naomie Harris has generated critical acclaim and Oscar buzz for her portrayal of a single mom in her latest feature, which follows a youth trying to navigate adolescence in the slums of Miami. CONTRIBUTED

> It's very rare that you get a movie that touches people as deeply as this. Naomie Harris

"What I always look for is an amazing script that (when) I read it, it moves me as Moonlight did," said Harris about playing the maternal crack-addict. "(I like) a character that scares me because I always like to do something completely different and be challenged."

Harris largely credits sophomore auteur Jenkins for guiding her through such a tumultuous part — especially one she filmed during a three-day break from promoting Spectre. However, even more than his direction, the actress insists Jenkins's sensitive script was what really stood out.

"Hollywood has an issue for writing for women in general," said Harris, adding that a profession dominated by dudes often means an understated female perspective. However, the 40-year-old Harris is also happy to report opportunities are improving with age. "Things are always getting better and I certainly feel like I have a better quality of scripts than I ever had before."

With a filmography that stretches back to the '80s, Harris is also impressively zen when it comes to reminiscing about a storied career that includes playing everything from a voodoo witch to Winnie Mandela.

"You do the very best you can and you hope people will go and see it but I always think the right movie finds the right person at the right time," stated Harris, before making one concluding addendum. "But I do believe everybody should go see Moonlight."

TOP ROLES

- **Moneypenny:** In Spectre and Skyfall, Harris took on the renowned part of the MI6 secretary with a distinct romantic magnetism to James Bond.
- **Tia Dalma:** A voodoo queen with magical powers, Harris starred opposite Johnny Depp's Jack Sparrow in a pair of Pirates of the Caribbean pictures.
- **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela:** Harris portrayed the controversial wife of anti-apartheid-advocate Nelson Mandela in this 2013 award-winning biopic.

McHale settles into cosier community

INTERVIEW

'It's all gravy,' says ex-Soup host of Indoor environment

Joel McHale isn't big on "bae," a fan of "fam," or onboard with "on fleek."

As the lead in the new sitcom The Great Indoors, which premiered Thursday on Global and CBS, the Emmy-nominated comedy star plays the supervisor of a team of millennial magazine journalists. As such, he says he doesn't have to be up on the latest slang of that generation.

"I'm the guy who's not supposed to know any of it and not understand any of it," said the 44-year-old.

"So that dynamic of my character being shoved into this world that he is unfamiliar with, and then you have Stephen Fry who is of another generation, I think that all together will make for hopefully a huge plate of carbonara pasta where you combine all these ingredients and hopefully it will work."

The 59-year-old Fry plays the founder of the adventure-geared Outdoor Limits magazine. McHale's character moves from the position of field reporter to supervisor when the publication becomes web-only.

Co-stars include Judd Apatow-favourite Christopher Mintz-Plasse, who plays the resident "tech nerd," Christine Ko as the social media expert and Shaun Brown as a "hipster-lumberjack."

The Great Indoors comes after McHale soared to fame on the satirical weekly pop-culture series The Soup and the sitcom Community, which both ended last year.

Rumours have swirled of a possible Community movie, and McHale says he's onboard — if the money comes together.

"We just need like $200 million — and if you have that, we need it," he said. "I think at one point Yahoo wanted to. I know there were rumblings about it. But then that all went away very quickly. The Yahoo streaming service disappeared. So who knows."

McHale said he was attracted to The Great Indoors because he'd been longing to do a four-camera sitcom and a workplace comedy.

"When they work, they become the American and the British Office or they become The Larry Sanders Show, or something like Mary Tyler Moore or Cheers," he said.

It also had the potential for an "endless" storyline — "a sandbox that we could play in for a long time" — unlike the other TV scripts he's read lately that seemed more like a movie with an end-point.

"You can have shows like The Nick that Steven Soderbergh directed. He was like, "I'm directing a nine-hour movie,'" said McHale.

"(TV) also is the place where, it's basically where you do independent films now, because they have the money and the flexibility to do it. But movie companies, it's becoming gigantic budget films and very small-budget films and not much in between. Although, I just did a Netflix movie and they had a $20 million budget, which is unheard of," added McHale, referring to A Futile and Stupid Gesture.

McHale said he feels "blessed" that he's on something that got on the air. While it's hard to make a successful series, he also looks to his family and world issues for perspective.

"I always say my older brother is an electrician and he spends the day trying not to electrocute himself while wiring buildings," said McHale. "And my little brother is an Episcopal priest who sits in hospitals and helps old people onto the next life.

"So we talk about, 'Oh, this was a difficult thing to shoot and this was a hard thing to do.' I'm like, 'Yeah, I guess. I'm not in a dinghy in the Mediterranean trying to start a new life for my family because I'm leaving my war-torn home.' So it's all relative.

"I'm being paid well to try to make people laugh, and so it's all gravy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joel McHale is keen on a Community movie. GETTY IMAGES

BOOKS

Joel's page-turner is not a hair-raiser

When thinking of Joel McHale, some may immediately conjure images of the cult classic Community. Others may know him as the super-sarcastic host of The Soup.

In Thanks For the Money, McHale is quick to point out that how you know about him is irrelevant — as long as you admit his luscious locks are not a hairpiece. He invites readers to use his experience as a somewhat famous person to be the best household name they can be. He writes about how famous people diet and explains the task of choosing a celebrity feud that's right for you. McHale takes everyday scenarios and twists them into witty and relatable life lessons. The book is smart, honest and clever. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Minnesota city council says Prince's Paisley Park museum can open permanently

On the trail of ghosts in NY State

HALLOWEEN

Spooky spots reveal ghost hunting is just like fishing

Jennifer Bain
Torstar News Service

The Sylvan Beach Amusement Park is among the haunted haunts you can visit. SYLVAN BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

Casper Cop chucks coins across the darkened Treasureland arcade at the Sylvan Beach Amusement Park and lets them ricochet on the ancient wooden floor.

"It's James. I've got a friend here who'd like to meet you. I've got recorders going. You gonna do something for us? We'd really love to meet you."

Casper Cop is private investigator James Pendell by profession and ghost hunter by passion. He has a seasonal gig leading the Park After Dark Ghost Tours.

"I've got a penny," Pendell says cajolingly to the darkness. "Will you throw it back to me? Where's my little girl?"

A prankster spirit child sometimes tosses the coins back or jingles them. She's one of the many ghosts said to roam this paranormal paradise in a vintage amusement park.

Pendell's tours start just as the park is closing and continue when he has the place to himself for several spooky hours, making for a "high freakout factor."

He has earned one of 65 spots on the Haunted History Trail of New York State, which launched three years ago and keeps adding places such as creepy inns, parks, theatres, museums, restaurants and cemeteries, offering ghost stories, tours and hunts.

Ghost hunters use Maglites (a type of flashlight), cameras, dowsing rods, video recorders, audio records, electronic voice phenomena recorders and other tools to communicate with the spirit world.

You don't have to be a true believer to be captivated by the haunted trail.

Fans of shows like Ghost Hunters, Ghost Adventures, Haunted Collector and Scariest Places on Earth are drawn to it. So are the merely "paranormal curious."

"Could you do something for us today?" Pendell pleads with his prankster spirit. "I've got a penny. Will you throw it back to me?"

Not tonight. We hunt in other dark, empty buildings, inviting the spirits to play knocking games, mess with salt and pepper shakers, and manipulate flashlights, but nobody wants to play.

"People say when I die I'm going to haunt this place, and I say I just might — the legend of Casper Cop." (Note: The park has just decided to put its ghost hunts on hold, so look for Pendell through his website.)

Ghost hunting is often likened to fishing. Sometimes the fish bite like mad and sometimes they don't, but fishing is so pleasurable it hardly matters.

I spent three days driving New York's haunted trail, visited 12 spots, met countless characters, such as Pendell, and embarked on five ghost hunts. Did I see, hear, feel or photograph a ghost? Not definitively.

At the Historic Palmyra Wm. Phelps General Store/Palmyra Museum, executive director Bonnie Hays tries to communicate with a girl named Holly who died in a fire with her mom and five siblings.

We sit in the parlour where Holly likes to hide under a table with a basket of toys, but she pretty much ignores our overtures. Eventually someone else seems to reach out via the Maglite we set out.

With these small flashlights, you rotate the heads until they illuminate, twist them back to the barely off position and put them on a flat surface. Ask yes or no questions and the spirits just might answer by flashing the lights.

At the Naples Hotel in the Finger Lakes, innkeeper Dominick Gallo also favours the Maglite approach.

"I know you're here. Could you please give us a sign? Turn on one of the flashlights. Please don't skunk me tonight." (Getting skunked is a fishing term for when you don't catch anything.)

Gallo instructs us to take pictures, especially in the corners of haunted guest rooms, and look at them later to see if we caught any orbs, figures or faces. We didn't. But the spirits do finally respond when we settle in Gallo's office.

"If you're a male spirit, can you please turn the flashlight on for me?" Gallo pleads.

Nothing.

"If you're a female spirit, please turn the flashlight on for me?"

Nothing.

"If this is the kids, can you please turn the flashlight on? Touch somebody? Give another sign you're here."

Nothing.

"Are you bothered? If we're bothering you, please turn the flashlight on."

The light flashes.

He interprets the subsequent erratic series of flashlight bursts as meaning two spirits, one strong and one weak, are taking turns communicating.

Jennifer Bain was hosted by the Haunted History Trail of New York State and its partners, none of which reviewed or approved this story.

IF YOU GO

The Haunted History Trail of New York State (hauntedhistorytrail.com) boasts 65 stops across 13 counties in New York state.

DESTINATIONS

Canada tops Lonely Planet's must-visits

Canada has been named Lonely Planet's destination of the year for 2017. Colombia and Finland were rated second and third respectively in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2017 guide, hitting bookstores Tuesday.

Reasons cited to visit Canada were next year's "elongated birthday party," with the country celebrating 150 years since Confederation, and a weak Canadian dollar pushing down prices, giving visitors "plenty of pocket money to spend on Canada's exciting fusion food and mysteriously underrated wine."

On Canada Day, the guide tells visitors to "expect 2017's parades, ceremonies and parties to be particularly memorable."

Lonely Planet says the top three regions to visit in 2017 are Choquequirao, Peru; Taranaki, New Zealand; and Azores, Portugal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada (1st), Colombia (2nd) and Finland (3rd) are Lonely Planet's top destinations for 2017. ISTOCK IMAGES

metro SPORTS

Built in 1914, Wrigley Field was first known as Weeghman Park and the Cubs began playing there in 1916. The World Series shifts to Wrigley this weekend.

East-topping Redblacks must curtail sloppiness

CFL

Burris calls for more focus ahead of Blue Bombers test

Too often this season the Ottawa Redblacks have been their own worst enemy. Costly turnovers, penalties and dropped balls are just a few of the ways the Redblacks have stumbled, and yet they still manage to sit atop the East Division despite their disappointing play at times.

The Redblacks (7-8-1) make no excuses for their inconsistencies, but know time is running short to start playing smarter and better.

Some might point to the staggering number of injuries the Redblacks have suffered this season and the endless changes to the starting lineup — including for this week's crucial tilt against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers — for some of the mistakes, but the Redblacks know they need to eliminate the mental mistakes.

"We're playing great football when things are rolling our way," said quarterback Henry Burris. "Now we have to find a way to continue it going in that direction and not have those lapses throughout the course of the game because those have cost us points, they've cost us games and it has hurt us in the end."

Ottawa QB Henry Burris has cited lapses in concentration, especially in third quarters, as the reason why the Redblacks makes so many errors. TREVOR HAGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Through the last six weeks Ottawa has struggled in the second half and been outscored 99-70 through the final 30 minutes. Last week Ottawa had a 15-point lead over Hamilton at the half and ended up losing 39-36 in overtime.

"Third quarters have really killed us, even though we're in a position to put points on the board," Burris said. "We understand that the opposition's going to make plays… but as soon as it happens we have to answer the call and that's not coming out and having penalties to bury ourselves even deeper into bad field position offensively.

16

Number of games Ottawa's Jon Gott has played this season, which is all of them.

"We have to be able to deal with the momentum swings, but still maintain our focus to come out and swing it in our favour and keep the momentum going in our direction."

Once again the Redblacks were forced to shuffle their offensive line as right tackle Jake Silas was injured last week. Jason Lauzon-Seguin will shift to right tackle while Tommie Draheim, who started 13 games for the B.C. Lions last year, will make his Ottawa debut at left tackle in what is arguably the Redblacks biggest game of the season.

> **"Third quarters have really killed us, even though we're in a position to put points on the board.**
> Henry Burris

Only Jon Gott has played in all 16 games while everyone else on the line has been in and out of the lineup, but J'Michael Deane, who will line up at left guard, says change is often inevitable.

"Usually when I get a new guy in I try to get in my (play) book that much more," Deane said. "I want to know what I'm doing and I want to know what the guy next to me is doing, just in case he's having trouble with something then I'm able to help him out. But I've got a veteran coming in to play next to me this game so he already knows it."

The two points on the line are crucial to the Redblacks. With a victory they will either remain atop the East Division or clinch first and a bye to the division final Nov. 20. While much will depend on the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who trail Ottawa by just one point and host Edmonton on Friday, the Redblacks prefer to focus on themselves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

'Personal matter' behind absence of Sens' Anderson

The Ottawa Senators have given goaltender Craig Anderson a leave of absence to attend to a "personal matter at home."

"While we are uncertain of how long Craig may be away, he will continue to have our support for as much time as is needed," general manager Pierre Dorion said in a release. "We will respect his privacy and will have no further comment at this time."

Anderson has a 4-1-0 record with a 2.94 goals-against average and a .903 save percentage with a shutout this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medal upgrade on cards for Canuck weightlifter Girard

An Olympic medal upgrade for Christine Girard is a reality with the official stripping of the gold from her Kazakh competitor. But there could be a lot more in store for the Canadian weightlifter.

Maiya Maneza was among eight athletes punished by the International Olympic Committee on Thursday for positive drug tests that surfaced in a retest of samples from the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The IOC declared that Maneza must give up the gold after testing positive for the steroid stanozolol.

Girard's bronze in London was the first Olympic weightlifting medal won by a Canadian woman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Father-son dream comes to fruition

WORLD SERIES

Tomlin to pitch with paralyzed dad watching

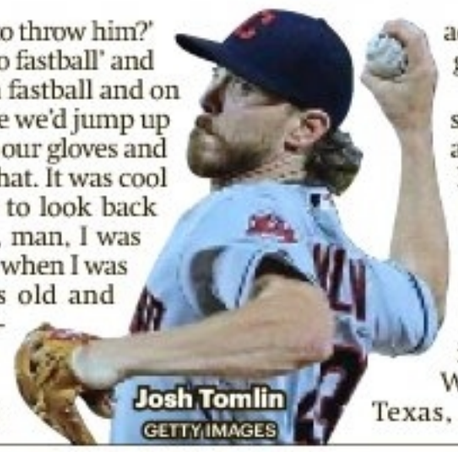
While his dad sat on a bucket in their backyard catching, little Josh Tomlin pretended he was pitching in the World Series.

He's about to do it for real.

And his dad, Jerry, recently paralyzed from the chest down following a medical scare that threatened his life, will be there in Chicago watching.

"It will mean everything," said Tomlin, who will start Game 3 at Wrigley Field. "We've talked about this, shoot, since I was three or four years old. I can remember having conversations with him — 'Bases loaded, full count, bottom of the ninth, so and so is up to bat. What are you going to throw him?'

"'Let's go fastball' and I'd throw a fastball and on strike three we'd jump up and throw our gloves and stuff like that. It was cool to be able to look back and think, man, I was doing that when I was four years old and now I'm actually going to live it and he's actually going to get to see it.


Josh Tomlin
GETTY IMAGES

"That's pretty special to me and something I'll never forget for the rest of my life."

In August, Jerry Tomlin, 57, was rushed into surgery in Whitehouse, Texas, after he was diagnosed with arteriovenous malfunction, a condition that affects blood circulation near the spine.

The procedure saved Jerry's life, but it has left him in a wheelchair with a long, difficult road to recovery ahead. It's not known if he'll walk again.

After spending nearly two months in a rehab facility in Dallas, he was released last week — on Josh's 32nd birthday. Jerry watched from his living room as the Indians clinched their first AL pennant since 2007.

"I've got a great relationship with (my parents)," Tomlin said. "They've been a huge part of my life and a huge part of my success in the big leagues."

And Jerry Tomlin will be there again when his son pitches on baseball's biggest stage, the one they played on before.

"I'm just looking forward to seeing him," Tomlin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

$37M more invested into Own the Podium

The Canadian Olympic Committee said Thursday it is renewing its commitment to high-performance sport by investing $37 million in funding over the next four years through the Own The Podium program.

The funding amount is consistent with the amount the COC invested in the previous quadrennial.

Canada won 22 medals last summer at the Rio Olympics: four gold, three silver and 15 bronze.

Chris Overholt
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"We've made some investments along the way and as we heard today and as we've seen first-hand in Rio, those investments are working," COC chief executive officer Chris Overholt said. "But the competitive landscape just continues to go up so we've got to keep our focus on maximizing our investment in sport."

The COC also announced it will commit $16 million in new funding for the growth and development of the next generation of Olympians, an amount that will be matched by the federal government.

As part of the new model, the COC will invest $5 million into a new coaching enhancement program and another $5 million to strengthen the capacity and resources of the country's national sport federations.

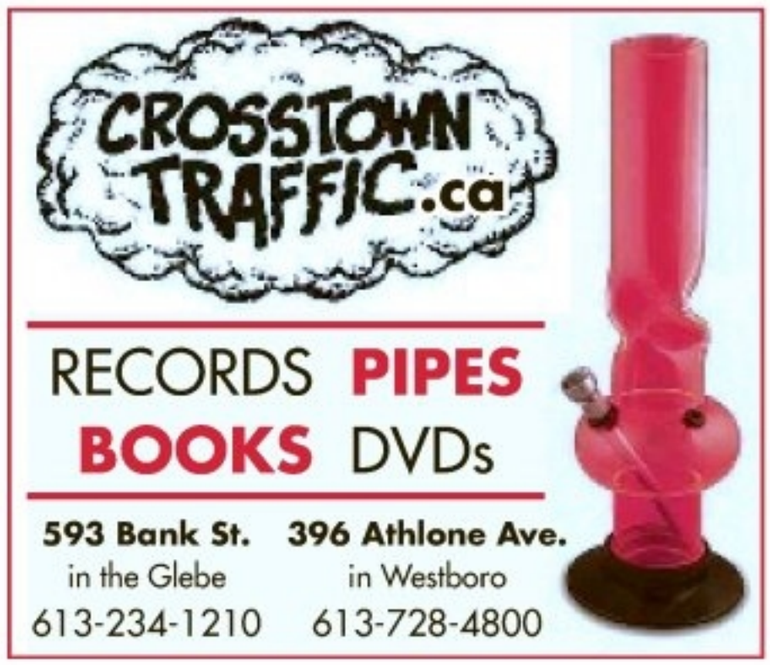
"This coaching enhancement program actually provides us with an avenue to keep coaches in Canada, build them, recruit new ones into Canada and then keep them in the system," said Coaching Association of Canada CEO Lorraine Lafreniere.

Also included in the new funding plans are $1 million for Game Plan, a program designed to ease the athletes' transition into the workforce after they retire from competition, and $2 million for the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEXT UP

The 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Tokyo will host the next Summer Games in 2020.



RECIPE Pepperoni Pizza Grilled Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Fridays should mean low-effort, big-flavour dinners, right? Enter the ooey-gooey pizza-inspired grilled cheese to the rescue!

Ready in 20 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Makes 2 sandwiches

Ingredients
- 4 slices of sourdough or wholegrain bread
- 2 tsp garlic butter
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 4 basil leaves, torn into small pieces
- 2 slices mozzerella cheese
- 16 to 20 slices of pepperoni
- 2 slices fontina cheese
- Extra virgin olive oil

Directions

1. Preheat a skillet over medium heat with a drizzle of olive oil.

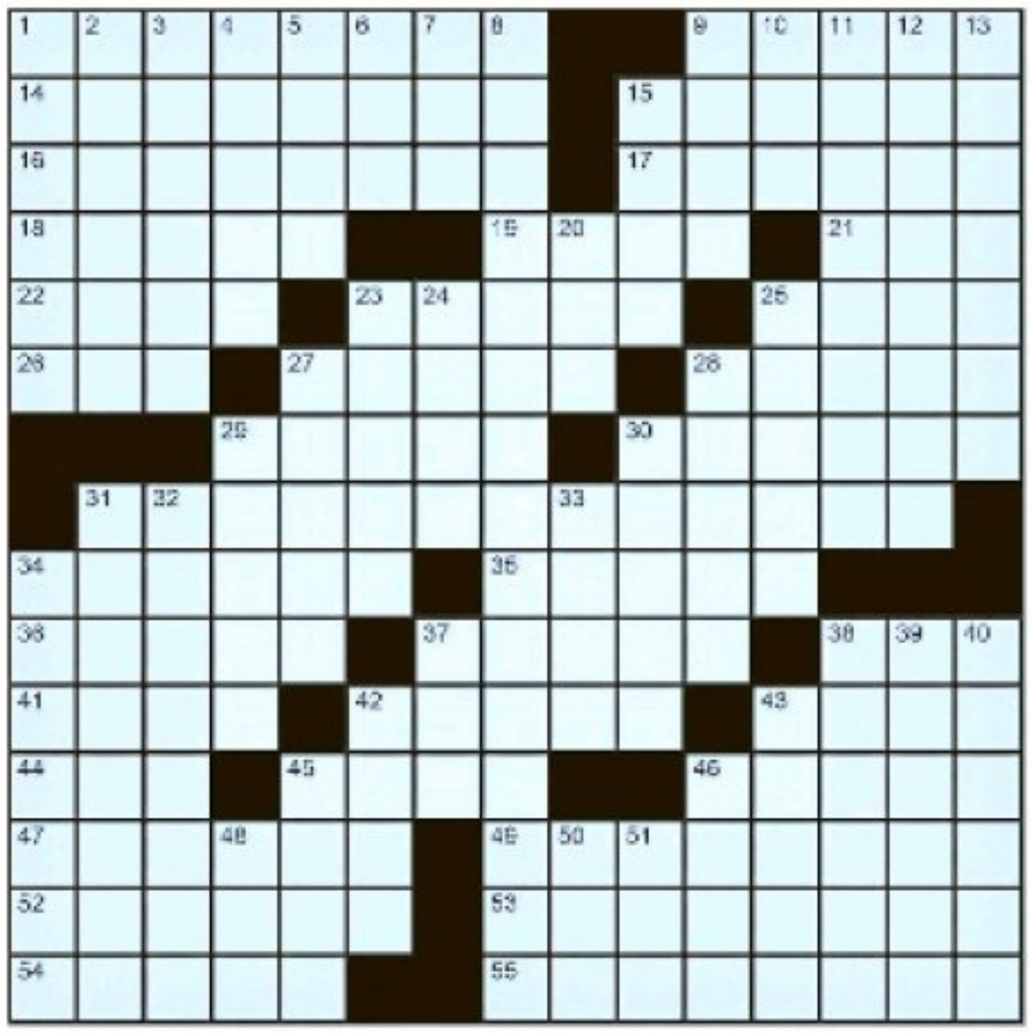
2. Butter one side of each slice of bread. Place pieces of bread butter side down on a clean surface or cutting board. In a small bowl, mix ricotta with basil pieces. Spread one slice of bread with about a tablespoon of ricotta. Place one slice of mozzarella on ricotta cheese. Now place a layer of 8 to 10 pieces of pepperoni down. Lay a slice of fontina on other slice of bread. Close sandwich and place in skillet.

3. Grill until lightly browned and then flip over; continue grilling until cheese is melted and gooey. Repeat for second sandwich.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Oboe
9. Devilish dude
14. Super happy
15. Epoch when ancestors of the modern horse appeared
16. In __ (Without being present, Latin-style)
17. Really is reluctant
18. Church members
19. American astronaut Sally
21. Soak flax
22. Scandinavian tale
23. The way a fox would do something
25. Compete in a logrolling event
26. Ms. Wallace of "Cujo" (1983)
27. Duck's doctor?
28. Jumpy
29. TV feed's sound
30. __ peanuts
31. Joe Flaherty starred as Dr. Fred Edison on what early 1990s Sci-Fi comedy series?: 2 wds.
34. Ontario's Trent-__ Waterway
35. Furious
36. Arctic boat
37. Suffix to 'Land'
38. Seasonal bug
41. Shakespeare King
42. Owed obligations
43. Capital of Valais, in Switzerland
44. Mountain explosive, commonly
45. Swanky transport
46. Some kicks of the football
47. Repents
49. Facing
52. "There's time still.": 2 wds.
53. 1883's history-making volcano of Indonesia
54. Supporting coaches, for short
55. Most tranquil

DOWN
1. Went from unwell to well
2. Song of dawn
3. 1980 Diana Ross chart-topper: "__ Down"
4. Greek alphabet's 8th letter
5. Skeleton's characteristic
6. Smidgeon of lunch
7. Installment in the 'Halloween' horror franchise
8. Tales from the Crypt printed fare: 3 wds.
9. Huffy
10. Champion
11. Sternly scold: 2 wds.
12. Big surname in fairytales
13. Snug
15. Guitar great Duane
20. Variety
23. Where Khartoum is the capital
24. Secular
25. Contradict
27. Eccentricity
28. Preference
29. 'Close by', in verse
30. Breaks branches
31. Sentimental souvenirs
32. Canadian History... Marion Orr and J.A.D. McCurdy: 2 wds.
33. "How now, _ _?" - Hamlet
34. Seedless grape variety
37. Theological sch.
38. Limited/measurable
39. Instant millionaires have won 'em
40. Remove from power, as in politics
42. Recipe's result
43. Lazy __ (Kitchen cupboard upgrade)
45. Not as much
46. __ around (Do some of a sleuth's work)
48. Pecan or cashew
50. Prior to
51. Golfing standard

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Avoid arguments with authority figures today, because things are just too unpredictable! If you think you see problems coming, give your boss a wide berth.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is an unpredictable day, so be very careful. Travel plans will be canceled or rescheduled. This also is an accident-prone day. Use caution!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Make friends with your bank account, because something unexpected might affect your finances. Surprises related to shared property and inheritances could catch you off guard.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Be patient and diplomatic with partners and close friends in order to avoid fights today. Everything is up for grabs!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an accident-prone day at work. Computer crashes and equipment breakdowns will interrupt your day. Allow extra time for wiggle room.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an accident-prone day for your kids, so be vigilant. This also is a very dicey day for romantic relationships. Be patient with everyone.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Domestic strife might occur today, because chaos on the home front puts your nerves on edge. Small appliances might break down, and minor breakages could occur. Have patience.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an accident-prone day, so be careful. Think carefully before you speak or do anything. Things will not unfold the way you expect them to.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Keep an eye on your possessions and assets today. You might find money, or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss, theft or breakage.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel impulsive and impatient today. Don't let your lack of patience get you in trouble. Easy does it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are unsettled today. You feel as if you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. That's because today is a bit of a crapshoot, and everyone feels it.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend might surprise you by doing something you least expect. Don't overreact. Likewise, a group to which you belong might oppose what you say. Go gently. If you act without thinking, you could lose friends and your reputation.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		5	7	6	2			
			5			3		
9		7					2	
6	9				5			3
	1						4	
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9	6	5	3	1	2	7	4	8
4	8	7	5	9	6	3	2	1
1	3	2	4	7	8	5	6	9
6	5	1	9	8	7	4	3	2
3	4	8	2	6	5	1	9	7
7	2	9	1	3	4	6	8	5
5	9	6	7	2	3	8	1	4
2	7	3	8	4	1	9	5	6
8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3

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